36TH CONGRESS, 1st Session. } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { MIS. DOC. No. 23.

COUNTERFEITING COIN OF THE UNITED STATES.

LETTER

OF

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

SUGGESTING

A special appropriation for the detection and bringing to trial of persons engaged in counterfeiting the coin of the United States.

FEBRUARY 28, 1860.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
February 25, 1860.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose, for your information and that of the Committee of Ways and Means, a copy of a communication made by this department, on the 24th instant, to Hon. James A. Bayard, chairman of the Committee on Judiciary of the Senate, suggesting a special appropriation, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, for detecting and bringing to trial persons engaged in counterfeiting the coin of the United States.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. THOMPSON, *Secretary.*

Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,
Chairman of Committee of Ways and Means,
House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
February 24, 1860.

SIR: Frequent applications have been made to me of late, by United States marshals and district attorneys, to place funds in their hands to be used in detecting and bringing to trial persons suspected of counterfeiting the coin of the United States.

In some instances the public interests have, in my judgment, required this to be done to a limited extent, and advances have accordingly

been made from the appropriation for the expenses of the judiciary. I am satisfied, however, that it is somewhat questionable whether expenditures of this character are legitimately payable from that fund; and I take the liberty of calling your attention to the matter, and of suggesting that special appropriations should hereafter be made on this account.

Should this meet your approval, I would suggest the sum of ten thousand dollars as sufficient for the next fiscal year, and that, if appropriated, it should be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, as an incident to the proper management of the mint and its several branches.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. THOMPSON, *Secretary.*

Hon. JAMES A. BAYARD,
Chairman of Judiciary Committee,
United States Senate.